

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 NIC-01 AID-20 GAC-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 /169 W

----- 079306

R 161050 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2915

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. APRIL 15-16 CAIRO PRESS HAS GIVEN MAJOR COVERAGE TO
ATTACK ON SIDON REFINERY. AHRAH'S SUNDAY EDITION STATES
THAT OPERATION WAS "MYSTERIOUS" AND FOLLOWS IN LEAD ARTICLE
WITH CONFLICTING NEWS STORIES OF EVENT AND DENIALS BY FEDAYEEN
OF COMPLICITY IN AFFAIR. OTHER PAPERS GENERALLY FOLLOW SAME
LINE. MONDAY, APRIL 16, AHRAH LEADS WITH STORY ABOUT
DISPUTE BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND LEBANESE ARMY OVER RESPONSIBILITY
FOR INCIDENT. ALL CAIRO PAPERS PUBLISH CLAIMS OF GOL AND
FEDAYEEN, ALTHOUGH AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA TEND TO GIVE MORE
WEIGHT TO ARAFAT'S DENIALS OF PALESTINIAN COMPLICITY IN AFFAIR.

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GUMHURIYYA EDITORIALIZES THAT US' S DANGEROUS PLAN, AS EVIDENCED BY US PARTICIPATION IN ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT AND SIDON REFINERY (SIC) , AND US BLASTING OF TAPLINE DEPOTS, IS AIMED AT STRIKING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BY DRIVING WEDGE BETWEEN IT AND OTHER ARAB STATES SUCH AS LEBANON AND SAUDI ARABIA. (COMMENT: OTHER THAN THIS AND ONE OTHER EDITORIAL (ALSO IN HUMHURIYYA), EGYPTIAN PRESS PUBLICATION OF FEDAYEEN ALLEGATION RE US COMPLICITY IN BEIRUT RAID HAS ABATED. FOCUS OF PRESS ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED OVER WEEKEND TO LEBANESE/ PALESTINIAN ISSUE, UPCOMING UNSC DEBATE, QADHAFI' S PROPHET' S BIRTHDAY SPEECH, AND OTHER EVENTS.)

2. APRIL 16 PRESS NOTES THAT EGYPTIAN COS SHAZLI RETURNED APRIL 15 FROM TWO- WEEK VISIT TO PRC AND NORTH KOREA, DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY VISITED USS PUEBLO. SHAZLI STATED ON RETURN THAT VISIT TO PRC WAS NOT OFFICIAL, BUT HE WAS GREETED WARMLY DURING HIS STOPOVERS THERE; HE ADDED THAT MORE VISITS TO " LIBERATED" COUNTRIES WOULD OCCUR.

3. NEW MILITARY DECREES HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO PROTECT FARMER FROM PROFITEERING AND ABUSE. DECREES WERE ISSUED BY MININT SALEM, RELATE TO DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS, FERTILIZERS, ETC., AND SALE OF FARM PRODUCE.

4. ARAB CHIEFS OF STAFF WILL REPORTEDLY MEET APRIL 21 IN CAIRO.

5. POSSIBILITY OF US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ME IS RAISED BY AKHBAR ARTICLE APRIL 16, DRAWING ON REPORTS OF US OFFICIAL ELMER BENNET' S REMARKS. AKHBAR SAYS THAT BENNET' S STATEMENT IS INTENSIFICATION OF US PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE ON ARABS AND WONDERS IF IT IS MEANT TO TEMPT WESTERN STATES TO SUPPORT US ENDEAVORS TO PUT ARAB OIL UNDER HER DIRECT CONTROL.

5. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR SAYYID MARI' I DEPARTED FOR KHARTOUM APRIL 15 .

6. QADHAFI' S PROPHET' S BIRTHDAY SPEECH IS FRONT PAGED IN ALL PAPERS. AHRAH EMPHASIZES REMARKS THAT UNITY WITH EGYPT IS A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER, AND GIVES PROMINENCE TO QADHAFI' S STATEMENT THAT LIBYA SHOULD BE FREE OF DEVIATIONISTS, THAT FREEDOM SHOULD BE FOR ALL AND NOT FOR THE FEW, AND THAT IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIBYAN PEOPLE CANNOT ACHIEVE MAIN POINTS OF THE REVOLUTION

THEN HE WOULD TAKE HIS LEAVE.
WILEY

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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